

Attorney Docket No. 128346.31801

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for improving the toughness of a CBN product made by a high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process, which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) forming a blend of an oxygen getter and CBN product-forming feedstock; and
 - (b) subjecting said blend to a CBN high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process for forming a CBN product;

wherein the amount of oxygen getter in said blend is being sufficient to improve the toughness of said CBN product; and

wherein the CBN product has an oxygen content of less than about 300 ppm.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said oxygen getter is one or more comprises a material selected from the group consisting of elemental Al, Si, or and Ti, nitrides of Al, Si, and Ti, carbides of Al, Si, and Ti, and mixtures thereof.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of oxygen getter is between about 0.005 and 0.5 wt-%.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said HP/HT process is conducted in one or more of the absence of a catalyst or the presence of a catalyst.
9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst devoid of oxygen content.

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10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said oxygen getter is removed from said CBN product.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Amended) The A CBN product formed by a of the process of claim 7 comprising:

forming a blend of an oxygen getter and a CBN product-forming feedstock; and

subjecting the blend to a high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process to form a CBN product; and

wherein the CBN product has an oxygen content of less than about 300 ppm.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

New Claims:

19. (New) The CBN product of claim 15, wherein the amount of the oxygen getter in the blend is between about 0.005 and 0.5 wt-%.

20. (New) The CBN product of claim 15, wherein the oxygen getter comprises a material selected from the group consisting of elemental Al, Si, and Ti, nitrides of Al, Si, and Ti, carbides of Al, Si, and Ti, and mixtures thereof.

21. (New) The CBN product of claim 15, wherein the HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst.

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22. (New) The CBN product of claim 15, wherein the HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst devoid of oxygen content.
23. (New) A method for improving the toughness of a CBN product made by a high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process, which comprises the steps of:
 - forming a blend of an oxygen getter and a CBN product-forming feedstock, wherein the oxygen getter comprises titanium; and
 - subjecting the blend to a CBN high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process to form a CBN product;
 - wherein the amount of oxygen getter in the blend is sufficient to improve the toughness of the CBN product.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the CBN product has an oxygen content of less than about 300 ppm.
25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the amount of oxygen getter is between about 0.005 and 0.5 wt-%.
26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the oxygen getter further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of elemental Al and Si, nitrides of Al and Si, carbides of Al and Si, and mixtures thereof.
27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst.
28. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst devoid of oxygen content.